

Continued From Page 1

the odium, the stigma attaching to my race. If I only knew before my marriage what I know now, God is my witness I would have married the humblest peddler rather than Roy Winthrop, with all his Mayflower ancestry. His mother will no doubt condone his infidelity to me as a merited punishment. Her terrible arraignment ceased. For a moment I could only stare in silence. Then I thought I saw my opportunity. 'Surely that is all the more reason for you to grant my wishes. Won't you, Bess?' Her passion seemed to have spent itself. She had resumed her seat and leaned back wearily. She looked weak and ill. My heart ached for her. I continued my pleading. She listened quietly. At last she spoke. 'Robert, she returned with a blending of gentleness and steadiness that quite defeated me and caused me to relax my hold on her hand. 'You misunderstand. As I always contended, we are far enough in the wrong. The attitude of my husband and his mother will not influence my conduct. We must make some reparation, not in justice to them, but to the purity of the affection we entertain for each other. God has seen fit to cross my destiny with that of two men not of my race. I have suffered in both instances. Over these circumstances I had no control. It is all part of my fate. But there are other considerations besides those involving us and my husband. I have outraged the traditions of my people. In my own immediate family, I have caused untold suffering. My poor father, who was singularly free from religious restraint, never survived the blow I dealt him. You have been kinder to me than I had dreamed it possible for man to be to woman. And my wonder grows when I remember your position and the life-long prejudice of your class. So our kindness passes understanding. But all the way through I have been kept from yielding, sorely as you tempted me by the ever-present thought that my fall meant not alone my own degradation, but that of the race from which I spring. In our case, the sin of one I laid at the door of all. The Jews have enough to bear. My further transgression would only add to the sense of wrong-doing I already feel I have been guilty of. The pride of our race has been the chastity of our women. Even Christians, much as they despise us, grudgingly acknowledge this. I have done wrong, but thank God, I have not entirely fallen from grace.' Although said gently, I could not mistake the firmness of her purpose as she continued. 'It is best, therefore, that we part here, now and forever.'

'I rose and began pacing the room. 'Surely you don't mean it! I can't live without you! You have become necessary to my very existence. What you demand is impossible. Never to see you, not to hear your voice again would mean "death in life" to me. Bess, consider well before you condemn me thus.'

'She was pale with the pallor of death. I saw she suffered intensely and said pittingly, 'This is taxing you almost beyond endurance. Let us let the matter rest for today.'

'She only shook her head. Her next sentence sounded the death knell to all my hopes.

'No, I would know no peace did I do so. If you love me one fraction as much as you say you do, you will strengthen rather than weaken my resolve. I want my mind clear to decide on a course for the future. If I cannot know happiness, at least I may seek peace.'

'Her simple confidence held me at a singular disadvantage. She continued softly, 'I do not wish to pose as a martyr. All who tread the path I have passed over are bound to suffer sooner or later. It is inevitable. The two races will not assimilate perfectly ever under ideal conditions. Some unforeseen circumstance will bring on the catastrophe. Re-adjustment is a pitiful task. Race hatred, even when artfully concealed, manifests itself most strongly in the domestic life. Here it flourishes in fertile soil, the Christian partner always assuming the right to relegate the Jew or Jewess, as the case may be, to a position of inferiority, which causes more than one storm in the lives of these mis-mated couples.'

'I pleaded and argued with her, but could not weaken her resolution. She seemed to have what I might term a virulent attack of 'race-consciousness.' For my own sake I prayed that its effects would soon pass and she would recall me. But time goes on apace and I still have no word from her. I am beginning to lose hope as I think back on the manner in which we parted.

'I looked at her with a world of longing in my glance. 'You are trying to change me from bad to good. Isn't it rather late in the day? Look at the matter dispassionately. We are only unfortunately situated. I am sure your cooler judgment will concede as much. At least let me see you once in a while.'

'But she remained obdurate. I was astonished at her stubbornness as I termed it. I knew now what I had to fight. It was her fear that in disgracing herself she was indirectly dragging down the ancient race which we treat so shamefully, but to whose influence we owe so much. I was baffled, but filled with a profound admiration. Her position seemed so unique, the responsibility so great.

'No, our parting must be final. Only harm can result from any other course.

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